

## **CONTRACTOR CLEARANCES AND ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY (DON) FACILITIES**

This is the first of two articles related to contractor clearance eligibility, access and periodic reinvestigation (PR) requirements. This article seeks to reinforce some basic security principles as requested by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) memo of 31 July 2006. That memo directed Department of Defense components to reiterate that clearance eligibility does not expire, and the granting of access to classified information should not be suspended or downgraded based solely on the fact that a Periodic Reinvestigation (PR) is overdue. Clearance eligibility remains as long as the individual remains in compliance with personnel security standards and has no subsequent break in service exceeding 24 months. DON commands should not deny contractor personnel access to facilities or classified information based solely on an overdue PR. Contractor clearance eligibility and investigation data can be confirmed by querying the Joint Personnel Adjudication System (JPAS). Overdue PRs should be brought to the attention of the contractor's facility security officer (FSO). FSOs are responsible for ensuring the request for the PR is submitted within the prescribed timeframe. Commanding officers have ultimate responsibility and authority for all determinations regarding persons who may have access to classified information under their control. Need-to-know, continuing evaluation criteria and un-adjudicated disqualifying information, and whether the PR is requested in a timely fashion should all be considered in granting access to classified information to anyone with clearance eligibility, but commands must remember that contractor employees remain eligible for access to classified information if current eligibility is indicated in JPAS.